

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103

With respect to Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action, the Office Action rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hebiguchi (US 5,497,146) in view of Ozawa (US 6,462,724). Of the rejected claims, only claims 1, 7 and 10 are independent.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The claimed invention of the present application is about a scan line circuit that solves the problems of screen flickering, imperfect exposure junctions and inhomogeneous brightness in a TFT-LCD. However, Hebiguchi discloses a matrix wiring substrate is provided which can perform an electrostatic countermeasure until drive circuits are connected to a matrix wiring substrate. Ozawa discloses a display device that displays in each of a reflective display mode using external light and a transmissive display mode using internal light, a gray scale of the display device being prepared according to image data prepared for use in each mode thereof. Accordingly, the three inventions solve different problems.

In light of above, Hebiguchi discloses that the matrix wiring substrate 38 shown in FIG. 3 is different from the matrix wiring substrate 26 of the first embodiment in that variable resistance elements 40, 40 are applied as the

separable portion (Column 7, lines 38-41). The separable portion 32 of the embodiment 1 (Fig. 1) includes a power supply 28 and a switching element 30. The separable portion of the embodiment 3 (Fig. 3) is a variable resistance elements 40. Therefore, the function of the variable resistance elements 40 is the same as or similar to the combined function of the power supply 28 and the switching element 30. The function of switching element 30 is switching the conduction and isolation between the circuit wiring and the guard ring 12 (column 5, lines 14-16). The function of the power supply 28 is controlling the conduction and isolation of the switching element 30 (column 5, lines 19-20). Therefore, the variable resistance elements 40 are not used as a gate voltage deformation device to deform the gate input voltage waveform as defined in the independent claims 1, 7 and 10 of this application.

Moreover, Hebiguchi discloses that drive circuit connecting terminals 34 are inserted between the circuit wiring and the guard ring 12 (column 6, lines 27-29), and the circuit wiring is located on the pixel area 14 (column 4, lines 51-52). When the switching elements 30 are turned off, the circuit wiring and the guard ring 12 are isolated from each other. Isolating the circuit wiring from the guard ring 12 results in that the circuit wiring can be driven only by the drive circuit (column 6, lines 34-36). Therefore, the variable resistance elements 40 do not connect between the gate of the first TFT and an input terminal of the scan line as defined as in the independent claims 1, 7 and 10.

Next, since the three inventions solve different problems, both Hebiguchi and Ozawa are impossible to teach or suggest any desirability and thus the obviousness of making the combination is not satisfied. Therefore, one can only come to a conclusion that the claimed invention cannot be obtained by combining the two inventions of Hebiguchi and Ozawa.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1, 7 and 10 are allowable over the art of record and respectfully requests the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 7 and 10 to be reconsidered and withdrawn. In addition, insofar the other dependent claims respectively depend from independent claims 1, 7 and 10 and add further limitations thereto, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of these claims should be withdrawn as well.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Other cited references of record have been studied, and are found no more relevant to the present invention than the applied art.

All claims in the present application are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.